

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

SEPTEMBER 17, 2013

FAMILY REUNIFICATION WEEK IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

When a child has to be removed from his or her family's care due to abuse or neglect, the Department of Children and Family Services provides the necessary services to the family that helps to strengthen it and allow for the safe return of the child to the home. Family Reunification Week is a time for all of Los Angeles County to celebrate those families, who through their hard work, and with the assistance of dedicated social workers, lawyers, community partners, and child welfare professionals, have successfully overcome some of life's most difficult challenges to reunify with their children and learn to raise them in a safe, loving and healthy manner.

Family Reunification Week is not only a time to acknowledge and celebrate these families; it is also a time to educate the public about the child welfare system and how it can strengthen families through services that enable the family to safely remain intact.

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MOTION

MOLINA _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

In Los Angeles County, the child welfare system is designed to help families by

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focusing on their strengths and providing them with services that will support and strengthen a better home environment for their children. Keeping families intact, when safely possible, and safe family reunification is the primary goal of the Superior Court of California, Los Angeles County Juvenile Dependency Court. Through the Court, 6,880 children were reunified with their families in 2011 and 6,000 more children in 2012.

The “2013 Family Reunification Week” celebration honors those Los Angeles County families who have successfully emerged through the child welfare system with healthier, stronger and intact families.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Proclaim the week of September 16-20, 2013 as “Family Reunification Week,” in recognition of those families that have successfully been reunited and learned the importance of creating a loving, wholesome and safe environment.

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